

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. By this response, claims 1 and 6 are currently amended. Claims 4 and 7 are canceled without prejudice and/or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (USP 6,052,488) ("Takahashi") in view of Klein et al. (USP 5,029,226) ("Klein").

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

II. Pending Claims

Independent claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Klein.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the cited references at least because they recite, "...wherein said small block is formed of said pixel data of $m_1 \times m_2$, said large block is formed of the small blocks of $l_1 \times l_2$, said coefficient matrix is formed of said coefficients of $n_1 \times n_2$, and the following equations are fulfilled..."

As seen in Figs. 25A-C of Takashi, DCT coefficients are provided in 8x8 arrays (FIG. 25B) from 8x8 pixel data (FIG. 25A) using equation (1). In addition, from these DCT coefficients, quantization threshold values of 8x8 (FIG. 25C) are divided.

This structure of Takashi is different from that of certain embodiments of the present invention which "multiplies each of the pixel data in each of said small blocks by said coefficient matrix rearranged into a predetermined order." Furthermore, in certain embodiments of the present invention, the small block is formed of the pixel data of $m_1 \times m_2$, the large block is formed of the small blocks of $l_1 \times l_2$, the coefficient matrix is formed of said coefficients of $n_1 \times n_2$, and the following equations are fulfilled:

$$n_1 < m_1 (l_1 - 1) + 1$$

and

$$n_2 < m_2 (l_2 - 1) + 1$$

(where $m_1 > 4$, $m_2 > 4$, $l_1 > 2$ and $l_2 > 2$)

The effect of certain embodiments of the present invention (e.g., process images using relatively simple combination of equipment, in an extremely short time, and with low power consumption) takes effect practically. The Applicant respectfully submits that Takashi does not disclose such structure. Moreover, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the other cited references cure the deficiencies of Takashi.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 6, as well as their dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references.

III. Conclusion

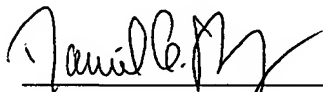
In light of the above discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4420 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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